

**Abstract**

Battery cans are produced in a continuous in-line operation from a group of drawing press tools. The streams of parts from each tool are merged into an ordered stream of parts without losing their identity as to the tool that produced them. The parts are automatically inspected and if parts from a particular tool are defective, the other parts from that tool are ejected from the line without ceasing operation of the stream of parts from the remaining tools. The operation continues through packing the parts in containers identified with the tool source of the respective parts.